Absender

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Justizministerin

Helena Kida

Av. Julius Nyerere 33

Maputo

MOSAMBIK

Datum

**Josina Machel**

Dear Minister,

On 17 October 2015, *Josina Machel* was brutally assaulted by her then partner, Rofino Licuco. The attack resulted in the loss of sight in her right eye. In February 2017, the Ka-Pfumu Municipal District Court found her attacker guilty for the crimes of serious physical and psychological violence, under articles 246(b), 171 (e) and 247(i) of the Mozambican Penal Code. Rofino was sentenced to three years and four months of detention, which was suspended under the condition of the payment of moral and material dam­ages amounting to 2,800,000 USD.

On 12 June 2020, the 2nd Criminal Appeal Section of the Judicial Court of Maputo’s City, in the capital of Mozambique, overturned the guilty verdict on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence of guilt.

On 5 August 2020, *Josina* filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Mozambique against the decision. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the appeal in the near future.

I therefore ask you to ensure an impartial and independent trial, that meets international standards of fair­ness, is carried out on the attack against *Josina Machel* which holds her attacker to account for his crimes;

Please also ensure a safe and enabling environment for *Josina Machel* so that she can carry out her work and is able to live without fear of attacks, intimidation and harassment; and

Furthermore I'm asking you to take immediate measures to promptly, independently and impartially inves­tigate the threats and intimidation tactics employed against *Josina* in an effort to silence.

Sincerely,